



a community since 1838

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

### PROCLAMATION

#### **Black History Month – February 2020**

WHEREAS, the month of February is observed nationally as Black History Month to share the accomplishments African Americans have made and continue to offer to this nation; and,

WHEREAS, Black History Month acknowledges and honors numerous past and present educators, scientists, activists, pioneers, leaders, artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and elders; and,

WHEREAS, the theme of Black History Month for 2020 is “African Americans and the Vote;” and,

WHEREAS, the story of Milton since its foundation has included progressive, abolitionist views and actions that led to the Milton House, a former stagecoach inn built in 1844 by Milton’s founder, being named a National Historic Landmark, recognized on the National Network to Freedom, and documented as the only authenticated Underground Railroad site in Wisconsin people are able to tour; and

WHEREAS, Arthur B. Lee, a free African American man born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1833 who served in the Civil War, moved to Milton in 1868; and

WHEREAS, Arthur B. Lee wrote about the voting potential of African Americans in 1873, a few years after the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed, in a letter to the Milwaukee Journal titled “The Colored Man,” saying, “If we are citizens of the country we are and must be the equals of all other citizens in matters pertaining to citizenship. We do not ask, we don’t desire any legislation interfering with private and social matters, but our public rights we must have because it is necessary and we will have because we can poll one million votes.”; and

WHEREAS, Milton remembers and recognizes the contributions Arthur B. Lee and countless other African Americans have made and are making to the unique fabric that is the community of Milton; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Common Council recognize the significance of Black History Month as an important time to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of African Americans in the City of Milton and around the United States, but we also recognize the need to acknowledge these contributions and strive for social equity every day.



NOW, THEREFORE, I, Anissa M. Welch, Mayor of the City of Milton, County of Rock, State of Wisconsin do hereby proclaim February as Black History Month in the City of Milton and encourage the celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all residents in the City to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped our community and nation.

Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

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Mayor Anissa M. Welch

Attest:

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Leanne Schroeder, City Clerk